

Communications Division  
401 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66603-3182



Phone: (785) 581-7307  
Fax: (785) 296-0753  
julie.menghini@ks.gov  
[www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov)

Delía García, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 7, 2019

Contact: Julie Menghini  
Communications Director/Legislative Liaison  
785-581-7307  
[julie.menghini@ks.gov](mailto:julie.menghini@ks.gov)

### **2019 Kansas Job Vacancy Survey Data Now Available**

The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) Kansas Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) data for 2019 is now available. The annual survey of the state's employers is conducted by the agency's Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) division from April through June. The survey estimates the number of job vacancies in Kansas and each Local Area along with information about the vacancies.

"This year's Kansas Job Vacancy Survey revealed there were approximately 56,000 job vacancies in Kansas during the second quarter, which is the most vacancies observed since the survey began in 2004," according to LMIS Special Projects Unit Supervisor Mason Jackson. "Kansas employers are having difficulties filling their vacant positions due to the low number of unemployed people and issues finding workers with the necessary skills or experience," Jackson added.

Here are some of the highlights of this year's survey:

- 67.7 percent of the vacancies were for full-time permanent positions.
- There were 0.8 unemployed people per job vacancy in Kansas, the second consecutive year there were more vacancies than unemployed people.
- The job vacancy rate was 3.9 percent, indicating that for every 100 positions, 3.9 were vacant. This was the second highest job vacancy rate in the history of the survey.
- 69 percent of vacancies were considered difficult to fill by employers. The main reasons that jobs were considered difficult to fill were: a lack of applicants with the necessary skills or experience, a general lack of applicants, and a lack of applicants with the necessary work ethic or soft skills.
- Local Area III (Kansas City Area) recorded the most job vacancies of any local area with 18,992 vacancies. Local Area IV (South Central Kansas) and Local Area I (Western Kansas) also had over 10,000 vacancies.
- Leisure and hospitality had the most vacancies of any industry with 11,750 vacancies, followed closely by trade, transportation and utilities with 11,289 vacancies. About 41 percent of the statewide vacancies were in these two industries.
- Food preparation and serving related occupations had the most vacancies of any occupational group with 8,852 vacancies. Sales and related, office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, and healthcare practitioners and technical were the other occupational groups in the top five.
- Retail salespersons was the occupation with the most vacancies, with 1,865 vacancies. The rest of the top five were registered nurses, nursing assistants, cashiers and waiters and waitresses.
- The average lowest wage offer for vacant positions was \$14.55 per hour.

For more on the survey go to <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=772> or contact the survey unit toll-free at 866-270-2873.

###

*The Kansas Department of Labor – Provides workers and employers with information and services that are accurate and timely, efficient and effective, fair and impartial. Administered by employees that understand the value and importance of public service to their fellow Kansans.*

**Follow the Kansas Department of Labor:**

